



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



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GOVERNOR

THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

March 12, 2003

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Thomas D. Watkins, Jr., Chairman

**SUBJECT:** Adoption of No Child Left Behind Unsafe School Choice Policy

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), Public Law 107-110, made broad-ranging changes in education law. The provision known as the Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO) is one such change, as follows:

**Unsafe School Choice Policy, Title IX, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9532:**

(a) Each State receiving funds under this Act shall establish and implement a statewide policy requiring that a student attending a persistently dangerous public elementary school or secondary school, as determined by the State in consultation with a representative sample of local educational agencies, or who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense, as determined by State law, while in or on the grounds of a public elementary school or secondary school that the student attends, be allowed to attend a safe public elementary school or secondary school within the local educational agency, including a public charter school.

(b) CERTIFICATION - As a condition of receiving funds under this Act, a State shall certify in writing to the Secretary that the State is in compliance with this section.

The USCO requires each state to adopt a statewide policy that allows a pupil to transfer to a safe school, including a public school academy, within the school district in either one of two circumstances.

- 1 If the pupil is attending a "persistently dangerous school" (NCLB requires the state to define "persistently dangerous school" in consultation with a representative sample of local educational agencies within the state); or
2. If the pupil has been the "victim of a violent criminal offense." (NCLB requires the state to define "victim of a violent criminal offense" based upon state law.)

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On November 7, 2002, a large and diverse group from other state and local agencies, private organizations, child advocates and the education community met to discuss the USCO provision of the NCLB Act. These discussions resulted in a draft definition of a "persistently dangerous school" and a "victim of a violent criminal offense." The definitions were circulated among interested parties and a significant number of comments were received.

The NCLB USCO statute lacks specifics on what must be included in the statewide Policy. The United States Department of Education (USDOE) intends to issue formal regulations on this provision in the near future. In the meantime, USDOE has issued an *Unsafe School Choice Option Draft Non-Regulatory Guidance* (Guide) document dated July 23, 2002.

The Guide states that it provides guidance on provisions that may be useful in administering the USCO Policy requirements. U.S. Department of Education officials, including the Inspector General, will consider state recipients that follow approaches contained in the Guide to be in compliance with the applicable federal requirements governing this program.

#### Important Guide Criteria for Identifying Persistently Dangerous Schools:

The criteria that the state must use to identify schools that are "persistently dangerous" must be objective criteria. The Guide explains that "objective" means "not influenced by emotion, surmise or personal bias" and suggests that referrals to law enforcement agencies, surveys and other data may be used (Guide, B-4).

States generally should consider a pattern of offenses or incidents within the current or most recent school year to determine whether a school is persistently dangerous (Guide, B-6).

States will be required to provide information annually about the number of schools identified as persistently dangerous (Guide, B-8).

At a minimum, a school district with one or more persistently dangerous schools must, in a timely manner: (1) notify parents of each student attending the school that the state has identified the school as persistently dangerous; (2) offer students the opportunity to transfer to a safe public school, including a public school academy, within the district; (3) for those students who accept the offer, complete the transfer; (4) develop a corrective action plan; and (5) implement the plan in a timely manner. "Timely implementation" will generally be considered to be within 30 days (Guide, C-1 and C-2).

A district's corrective action plan should be submitted to the state for approval. The state should provide technical assistance as the plan is implemented, and should monitor the district's timely completion of the approved plan (Guide, C-3).

Upon completion of its corrective action plan, a school district may apply to the state to have the school removed from the list of persistently dangerous schools (Guide, C-6).

The state must be prepared to implement the required transfers of students no later than the start of the 2003-2004 school year (Guide, F-3).

In initial group discussions regarding the USCO, there was a majority consensus that the requirement to designate schools as unsafe would unfairly fall on schools located in urban areas and schools where the pupils come from low income families. The motivation for including environmental assets in the policy was viewed as a positive attribute to a potentially unsafe school, to be weighed in the school's favor before designating the school as persistently dangerous.

Concerns expressed by some members of the study group included the use of expulsion data to identify unsafe schools. Commentators suggested that use of expulsion data does not “empirically identify” unsafe schools. Other commentators suggested that it might be counterproductive and unfair to use expulsion data as criteria to determine which schools are unsafe, because schools generally expel students to make the school safer. In response, it must be remembered that, behind the expulsion reported, an incident occurred. The incident involved a certain type of conduct on the part of the perpetrator, and the school board took action as a result.

Schools are required to report “incidents of crime” as any incident requiring a school administrator to call 911 or a local law enforcement agency, under the Michigan Statewide School Safety Information Policy (MSSSIP), Public Act 102 of 1999, MCL 380.1308 and 380.1310a; see *also*, Arthur E. Ellis, SPI letter to schools dated March 24, 2000. If the principal of a school calls a local police agency or calls 911, that call is to be counted as an “incident of crime.” The number of telephone calls to the police should not be used to determine whether a school is persistently dangerous. The call may be based upon suspicion or rumor, and may be without substance. These criteria, it seems, would be too unreliable.

The Gun-Free Schools Act (20 USC 7151) requires reporting expulsions resulting from possession of firearms. This limited criteria alone, even if considered over a period of consecutive years, would not seem to be a fair indication of dangerousness, as it does not address incidents of violence that are not firearm-related.

The MSSSIP (October 4, 1999) requires county prosecutors to notify school districts of any criminal or juvenile court action initiated or taken against a pupil. It also requires courts to inform school administrators of the name of the individual assigned to monitor a convicted or adjudicated youth attending school, and how the individual may be contacted. The CEPI does not collect data related to these activities.

The Guide recognizes that barriers may exist in communications between school administrators, juvenile justice authorities, and law enforcement officials, and points out that some states have enacted legislation to address this issue (Guide, A-1).

Use of expulsion data is not the only objective measure of a persistently dangerous school. It is suggested that school districts and CEPI begin collecting more detailed crime incident information. This would include nature of the offense, perpetrator and victim information such as time; date; location; whether alcohol or drugs were involved; if drugs were involved, what drugs; whether a weapon was involved and, if so, what type of weapon; whether the incident was gang-related; the level and severity of the crime, and so forth. *The Revised School Code* gives school boards the power to suspend or expel a pupil guilty of a gross misdemeanor or persistent disobedience. However, the terms “suspend,” “expel,” “gross misdemeanor,” and “persistent disobedience” are not defined. Moreover, the law has been amended several times since 1976, resulting in a mix of mandatory permanent expulsions, mandatory nonpermanent expulsions, and permissive expulsions or suspensions.

*The Revised School Code* requires school boards to report all expulsions; however, they are not required to report suspensions. It is recommended that CEPI collect suspension data, as well as environmental asset data, such as prevention and threat assessment programs, and emergency response plans. Data collected for threat assessment purposes is essential for community-coordinated crisis response, and would be a useful tool for Michigan schools.

If it is decided that additional criteria be collected, it will be necessary to decide the objective criteria to be used, and immediately begin development of a system to collect the data. The USCO must be implemented commencing with the 2003-2004 school year. If additional data is to be collected, data fields must be developed with that timeframe in mind.

School districts have requested more specific definitions than the definitions currently included in the "structure for expulsion" used by CEPI. To accommodate requests for more specifics, reference is made to criminal law. Moreover, the *Revised School Code* specifies several offenses requiring pupil expulsion, by reference to the Penal Code. For example, arson and criminal sexual conduct.

The suggested criteria for a "persistently dangerous school" is if more than 2.5 percent of building-enrolled pupils have been expelled or suspended for more than ten consecutive days, for each school year, for three consecutive years, for listed offenses. This percentage was arrived at after discussion and review of other state policies, many of which had a percentage close to this number.

Using the proposed criteria for identifying persistently dangerous schools, a school with 1,500 students would require 37 expulsions or suspensions for listed offenses. Based upon common experience, it seems that if a school building had 37 expulsions for each of three consecutive school years, for the listed offenses, that school would clearly have a safety problem.

A suspension of "more than ten consecutive days" was designated a critical time period because that time has been recognized as significant for other determinations, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, which permits a school district to suspend a child with a disability for disciplinary reasons for not more than ten days.

The USCO Policy must be implemented no later than the start of the 2003-2004 school year; school districts must be prepared to implement the required transfers.

Development of this draft document has been inclusive and dynamic. We are most appreciative of the considerable input from so many dedicated and diverse educators, child advocates, and representatives of state and local agencies, organizations, and businesses.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Michigan Statewide Unsafe School Choice Policy, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated March 12, 2003.



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR  
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC  
INSTRUCTION

**NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF 2001  
P.L. 107-110**

**MICHIGAN STATEWIDE UNSAFE  
SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY  
(Title IX, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9532)**

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# **MICHIGAN STATEWIDE UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY**

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# **MICHIGAN STATEWIDE UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY**

## **OVERVIEW**

### **GOALS:**

To be eligible to receive funds under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, H.R. 1, (NCLB Act), each state must establish and implement a Statewide Unsafe School Choice Policy (Policy), commencing with the 2003-2004 school year. The Policy must permit a pupil attending a persistently dangerous school, or a pupil who becomes the victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of the school attended by the student, to attend a safe school within his or her district, as follows:

#### **Unsafe School Choice Policy, Title IX, Part E, Subpart 2, Section 9532**

- (a) Each State receiving funds under this Act shall establish and implement a statewide policy requiring that a student attending a persistently dangerous public elementary school or secondary school, as determined by the State in consultation with a representative sample of local educational agencies, or who becomes a victim of a violent criminal offense, as determined by State law, while in or on the grounds of a public elementary school or secondary school that the student attends, be allowed to attend a safe public elementary school or secondary school within the local educational agency, including a public charter school.
- (b) CERTIFICATION- As a condition of receiving funds under this Act, a State shall certify in writing to the Secretary that the State is in compliance with this section.

### **STRUCTURE:**

The Policy consists of five parts

- Part I is the definition of a pupil attending a Persistently Dangerous School;
- Part II is the definition of a pupil who has been the victim of a violent criminal offense;
- Part III details the options available to pupils attending persistently dangerous schools and to pupils who have been the victims of a violent criminal offense;
- Part IV details reporting requirements under the Statewide Unsafe School Choice Policy;
- Part V specifies requirements for submitting a corrective action plan by school districts that have been designated as Persistently Dangerous Schools.

As used in this Policy, "at school" means in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event, whether or not it is held on school premises. For offenses that occur on a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event, whether or not it is held on school premises, the offense need only be reported by the perpetrator's district of residence.

This Policy may be reviewed periodically by the State Board of Education.

## PART

### DEFINITION OF A PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS SCHOOL

A **Persistently Dangerous School** designation will be given to each public elementary school or secondary school, including public school academies, if:

**For each school year, for three consecutive years, more than 2.5 percent of pupils enrolled in the school have been expelled for more than ten consecutive days for offenses committed at school, as identified in this Policy.**

NOTE: By reference to state law, the Michigan State Board of Education does not imply that a pupil must be convicted of a defined offense before he or she can be expelled. All definitions referred to in this policy shall be construed according to the fair import of their terms, to promote justice, and to effect objects of the law, and shall not be strictly construed. Whether a pupil has committed an offense warranting expulsion for more than ten consecutive days under this policy is a determination to be made by the local school board, or its designee, at its discretion, as permitted by state law. Moreover, this does not limit the reasons a school board may expel a pupil.

#### LIST OF OFFENSES:

The legislation referred to in this Policy refers to the Michigan Compiled Laws (MCL). Sections pertaining to MCL 380.1 *et seq.* refer to the *Revised School Code*; sections pertaining to MCL 750.1 *et seq.* pertain to the *Michigan Penal Code*; sections pertaining to MCL 333.7401 and 333.7403 refer to the *Michigan Public Health Code*.

OFFENSE	STATUTE As Defined In:	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION	SUSPENSION/EXPULSION REQUIREMENTS
Arson (Felony)	MCL 750.71 to 750.80	"Arson" means a felony violation of MCL 750.71 to 750.80 for purposes of this Policy.	Permanent Expulsion MCL 380.1311(2)
Assault: Physical assault by a pupil against a school employee, volunteer, or contractor.	MCL 380.1311a(1)	"Physical assault" means intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.	Permanent Expulsion MCL 380.1311a(1) (Pupil Grade 6 or above.)
Assault: Physical assault by a pupil against another pupil.	MCL 380.1310(1)	"Physical assault" means intentionally causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another through force or violence.	Suspension or Expulsion for up to 180 school days. (Pupil Grade 6 or above.)



OFFENSE	STATUTE As Defined In:	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION	SUSPENSION/EXPULSION REQUIREMENTS
(Assault, Cont'd.)	MCL 750.81a	Assault and infliction of serious or aggravated injury.	
	MCL 750.82	Felonious assault.	
	MCL 750.83	Assault with intent to commit murder.	
	MCL 750.84	Assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder.	
	MCL 750.87	Assault with intent to commit a felony not otherwise punished.	
	MCL 750.88	Assault with intent to rob and steal, being unarmed.	
	MCL 750.89	Assault with intent to rob and steal, being armed.	
Bomb Threat or Similar Threat	MCL 380.1311a(2)	Bomb threat directed at a school building, other school property, or a school-related event.	Suspension or expulsion, for a period of time determined in the discretion of the school board or its designee. (Pupil Grade 6 or above.)
Criminal Sexual Conduct	MCL 750.520b to MCL 750.520e, MCL 750.520g	Criminal Sexual Conduct in the First Degree, Second Degree, Third Degree, Fourth Degree, and Assault with Intent to Commit Criminal Sexual Conduct.	Permanent Expulsion MCL 380.1311(2)
Possession of a Dangerous Weapon	MCL 380.1311, MCL 380.1313	"Dangerous weapon" means a firearm, dagger, dirk, stiletto, knife with a blade over 3 inches in length, pocket knife opened by a mechanical device, iron bar, or brass knuckles.	Permanent Expulsion MCL 380.1311(2)
	Title 18, United States Code, Section 921	The term "firearm" means:  any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive;  the frame or receiver of any such weapon;  any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or  any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.	

OFFENSE	STATUTE As Defined In	ADDITIONAL EXPLANATION
		<p>The term "destructive device" means:</p> <p>any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) bomb,</li> <li>(ii) grenade,</li> <li>(iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces,</li> <li>(iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce,</li> <li>(v) mine, or</li> <li>(vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses;</li> </ul> <p>any type of weapon (other than a shotgun or a shotgun shell which the Secretary finds is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes) by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; and</p> <p>any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.</p> <p>The term "shotgun" means a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of an explosive to fire through a smooth bore either a number of ball shot or a single projectile for each single pull of the trigger.</p>
Extortion	MCL 750.213	Malicious threats to extort money.
Homicide	MCL 750.91	Attempt to Murder
	MCL 750.316	First-Degree Murder
	MCL 750.317	Second-Degree Murder
	MCL 750.321	Manslaughter
Robbery	MCL 750.529	Armed robbery and aggravated assault.
	MCL 750.529a	Carjacking
	MCL 750.530	Unarmed Robbery

## **PART II**

### **DEFINITION OF A PUPIL WHO HAS BEEN THE VICTIM OF A VIOLENT CRIMINAL OFFENSE**

A pupil shall be considered to be a victim of a violent criminal offense when the pupil, or his or her parent or legal guardian, has made an official written complaint to law enforcement officials and to school officials of the pupil's district of residence that the pupil has been the victim of a violent criminal offense, if the official complaint indicates that the violent criminal offense occurred at school.

"At school" means in a classroom, elsewhere on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event, whether or not it is held on school premises.

"Violent Criminal Offense" means any of the following offenses:

Assault and infliction of serious or aggravated injury.	MCL 750.81a
Assault with intent to commit murder.	MCL 750.83
Assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder.	MCL 750.84
Assault with intent to maim.	MCL 750.86
Assault with intent to commit a felony not otherwise punished.	MCL 750.87
Armed assault with intent to rob and steal.	MCL 750.89
Felonious assault.	MCL 750.82
Unarmed assault with intent to rob and steal	MCL 750.88
Attempt to murder.	MCL 750.91
Criminal sexual conduct or assault with intent to commit criminal sexual conduct.	MCL 750.520b to 750.520e and 750.520g
Malicious threats to extort money.	MCL 750.213
Attempt to Murder	MCL 750.91
Armed Robbery.	MCL 750.529
Carjacking	MCL 750.529a
Unarmed Robbery.	MCL 750.530

### **PART III**

#### **OPTIONS FOR PUPILS ATTENDING PERSISTENTLY DANGEROUS SCHOOLS AND PUPILS WHO HAVE BEEN THE VICTIMS OF A VIOLENT CRIMINAL OFFENSE**

- 1** Any pupil who attends a Persistently Dangerous School shall be allowed to attend a safe public school in the district. The school board shall offer the pupils attending a school designated as a Persistently Dangerous School the opportunity to transfer to a safe school within the district and, for those pupils who accept the offer, complete the transfer.
- 2** Any pupil who becomes the victim of a violent criminal offense at the school in which the victim is enrolled shall be allowed to attend a safe public school within the district.

### **PART IV**

#### **REPORTING REQUIRED BY THE STATEWIDE UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE POLICY**

Each school board falling within the criteria described below shall prepare and submit to the district's Intermediate School District (ISD) Superintendent and the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI), in the form and manner prescribed by the SPI, no later than 30 days after the close of each school year, commencing with the 2002-2003 school year, a report for each school in the district. For purposes of this policy, June 30 is the close of the school year. Each school district shall report the following:

##### **1. Whole School Option Reporting.**

If more than 2.5 percent of the pupils enrolled in a school have been expelled for offenses identified in Part I of this Policy, then the board of education shall identify the school and shall report how many pupils are enrolled in the school, and the nature and number of offenses committed by pupils identified in this policy. At the time the report is submitted to the SPI, the school board shall notify the SPI, the district's ISD Superintendent, and the parents of each pupil attending the school that the school has been identified as a Persistently Dangerous School.

##### **2. Individual Pupil Option Reporting.**

If a pupil who has been the victim of a violent criminal offense, as defined in Part II of this Policy, elects to transfer to a safe school within the district, then the board of education shall identify in the report the pupil's original school and the school to which the pupil transferred, as well as the offense of which the pupil was a victim.

### **PART V**

#### **CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN**

Each public school board with a school within its jurisdiction that has been designated as a Persistently Dangerous School shall submit a Corrective Action Plan to the SPI for approval. The Corrective Action Plan must be submitted to the SPI within 30 days of the district board's report and notification to the SPI that the school has been identified as a Persistently Dangerous School.

The Corrective Action Plan shall address the issues that resulted in the school being identified as Persistently Dangerous. Upon completion of its Corrective Action Plan, a school district may apply to the SPI to have the school removed from the list of Persistently Dangerous Schools. (The Appendix to this Policy identifies resources to help schools develop and implement a Corrective Action Plan. However, a school board may use whatever resources it deems appropriate. It is not mandatory that a school board make use of the attached resources.)

## APPENDIX

This Appendix identifies planning and prevention programs (Environmental Assets) that schools can implement to prevent violence and respond to violent incidents that threaten school safety. These Environmental Assets are based on research developed by Michigan State University, through a grant from the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy, in cooperation with the Office of Safe Schools, Michigan Department of Education. Additional resources available through the Michigan Department of Education and other state and federal agencies are incorporated into this document. Research indicates that schools implementing these Environmental Assets are significantly less likely to experience violence, and are better prepared to handle emergencies that arise. Individual school districts may identify and report additional Environmental Assets that have been implemented in their schools, with data to demonstrate their effectiveness within individual school cultures. These Environmental Assets include:

- 1 Physical Safety Assessment:** The school has completed a comprehensive security assessment survey of its physical design and needs within the immediately previous school year, which is reviewed on a continuous basis. The assessment should be conducted in cooperation with law enforcement, school security staff, physical facilities personnel, fire and other emergency service personnel. The conclusions of the survey might indicate that the level of physical security may need to be modified in order to lower the school's vulnerability to violent behaviors. Using the conclusions of the survey, a comprehensive environmental safety report, including the school's physical security needs, would be disseminated to pupils, parents, school staff and community members.
- 2. Physical Security Policies and Procedures:** The school has implemented a comprehensive set of policies and procedures to provide for the physical security needs of students, visitors, and staff. This minimum set of security policies and procedures includes:

Utilizing trained personnel to assist teachers and administrators in monitoring student behavior and activities;

Encouraging screened and trained parents and other volunteers to provide monitoring of students;

Considering the use of metal detectors in special circumstances, to deter weapons on campus;

Adopting policies for conducting searches for weapons and drugs, and publishing policies in the student handbook/code of conduct;

Requiring visitors to sign in and sign out at the school office, and to wear visible visitor passes; posting prominent signs at all school entrances to instruct visitors where to sign in and out; and publishing the policy in the student handbook/code of conduct;

Requiring students and staff to carry or wear their school photo IDs during school and at all school-related activities;

Patrolling school grounds, especially in areas where students tend to congregate, such as parking lots, hallways, stairs, bathrooms, cafeterias, and schoolyards.

Additional suggestions for enhancing security policies and procedures, as well as violence response strategies, can be found in:

*Guide for Preventing and Responding to School Violence*, adopted by the membership at the International Association of Chiefs of Police on November 3, 1999. The document can be accessed at <http://www.theiacp.org/documents/pdfs/Publications/schoolviolence2.pdf>.

*Threat Assessment in Schools: A Guide to Managing Threatening Situations and to Creating Safe School Climates*, developed by the United States Secret Service and United States Department of Education in May 2002. The document can be accessed at [http://www.treas.gov/usss/ntac/ssi\\_guide.pdf](http://www.treas.gov/usss/ntac/ssi_guide.pdf).

3. **Pro-Social Environment:** The school has clear policies addressing violence and bullying, while recognizing and rewarding pro-social behavior. The school has made those policies available in written form to pupils, parents, school staff and community members.

The Office of Safe Schools has incorporated a bullying policy in the Model Code of Student Conduct, which can be accessed at the safe schools website: <http://www.michigansafeschools.org>. The model code of student conduct may be adopted by local school districts or modified to reflect local school district policy and procedure.

School districts may wish to include their anti-bullying policy with conflict resolution and peer mediation programs, in addition to training faculty and staff members to properly handle bullying incidents.

The State Board of Education has developed the following policies on bullying and safe schools.

The State Board of Education has developed the following policies on bullying and safe schools

- [Policies on Bullying](#)
- [Policies on Safe Schools](#)

The Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services, has embraced a national initiative known as Positive Behavior Support, or PBS. A document entitled *Positive Behavior Support for ALL Michigan Students: Creating Environments that Assure Learning*, was developed by a collaboration of stakeholders across Michigan that provides an umbrella framework for understanding the concept of PBS and guiding its practical implementation in Michigan schools. PBS is a proactive and positive approach to student behavior. PBS brings schools, parents, and the community together to support the teaching and learning of successful student behavior for all students. When schools become learning communities and implement PBS on a school-wide basis, schools become safer and more productive. A copy of the document can be accessed at: [http://www.michigansig.org/uploaded/2002/JUL/19464974833\\_0109.NwsIn.pdf](http://www.michigansig.org/uploaded/2002/JUL/19464974833_0109.NwsIn.pdf).

Positive Behavior Support information can be obtained at the federal level by accessing <http://www.pbis.org/>. The OSEP Technical Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports has developed an interactive school-wide evaluation tool designed to assess and evaluate the critical features of school-wide effective behavior support across each academic school year, and can be accessed at <http://www.pbis.org/files/settwo.pdf>. Additional links can be found at <http://www.michigansig.org/Links.asp>.

The Department of Education, Office of School Excellence, has partnered with the Department of Community Health and other agencies to develop violence prevention, bullying prevention, and character education lessons for kindergarten through high school. The *Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health Education* has received national recognition as a "best practice" and is used widely throughout the state. Professional development is available to all Michigan schools through the regional School Health Coordinators. See [www.emc.cmich.edu](http://www.emc.cmich.edu) for more information, or contact Merry Stanford at the Department of Education at 517-241-1500 or [standfordm@michigan.gov](mailto:standfordm@michigan.gov).

4. **Safety and Violence Prevention Training:** The school provides substance abuse and violence prevention training at least annually for all school students and staff members.
5. **Reporting Procedures for Violent Incidents:** The school has implemented a system for collecting and reporting violent incidents, as required by state and federal law.
6. **Discipline Policy:** The school has a written discipline policy incorporated in the school's code of student conduct that is enforced equitably and disseminated to students, parents, and staff members. The discipline policy would also recognize and reward positive behaviors.
7. **Security Assistance:** The school has an active partnership with local law enforcement, has established proprietary (in-house) security, or has contracted with a licensed private security agency, and uses them consistently in district buildings and grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events.

8. **Conflict Management Tools:** The school provides conflict management training, mediation, and other resources for all students to manage conflict effectively.
9. **Crisis Management Support Services:** The school provides counseling services for students, parents and staff members who have been victims of violence.
10. **Crisis Planning Team:** The school has developed a Crisis Planning Team that meets at least four times annually, and reviews all violence prevention and school emergency plans. School personnel and representatives of law enforcement, fire departments, security, other emergency response providers and community members would constitute the Crisis Planning Team.
11. **Emergency Plan:** The Crisis Planning Team has developed and implemented a plan to address emergencies and critical incidents. The emergency plan would be disseminated to parents, students, and staff members. It is also recommend that the schools develop or update plans with local public health agencies, health providers, medical personnel, hospitals, and public safety agencies.
12. **Emergency Response Training:** The Crisis Planning Team would provide or arrange for training on an ongoing basis to staff, volunteers, full-time and part-time staff, substitute teachers, students and other persons who are regularly on campus, regarding how to respond to different types of scenarios. Responses for different types of crises should be planned in advance and reviewed, updated, and practiced periodically. The chaos and panic created by these situations cannot be effectively handled without a pre-established specific plan of action. Teachers and staff play critical roles in implementing a planned response, both before and after emergency response personnel arrive.

The Michigan State Police (MSP) offers advice and information in planning for hazards in communities and schools. Schools can call the Michigan State Police Emergency Management Division and contact Lori Hornbeck at 517-333-5036 to obtain the name and number of their local emergency management coordinator.

There are several emergency planning publications posted on the MSP Emergency Management web page, which can be accessed at [www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1645\\_4607\\_4612-14743--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1645_4607_4612-14743--,00.html).

The MSP Fire Marshal's Office has posted several resources for fire safety on its website. The following site has monthly Fire Marshall Newsletters:

[http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1645\\_4607\\_21851--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1645_4607_21851--,00.html)

The Fire Marshal's Office also has information regarding child fire setting and juvenile arson on its Juvenile Firesetter Program web page at [http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593\\_3505-18739--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/msp/0,1607,7-123-1593_3505-18739--,00.html). Contact Karen Towne at 517-322-5482 for resources and information regarding the Juvenile Firesetter Program.